


In the claims:

1. (Original) An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of:

- a) SEQ ID NO: 1;
- b) the complement of SEQ ID NO: 1;
- c) nucleotides 319-555 of SEQ ID NO: 1; and
- d) the complement of nucleotides 319-555 of SEQ ID NO: 1.

2. (Original) An isolated nucleic acid molecule according to Claim 1 which is DNA.

3. (Original) An isolated nucleic acid molecule consisting essentially of a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of:

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- a) SEQ ID NO: 1;
 - b) the complement of SEQ ID NO: 1;
 - c) nucleotides 319-555 of SEQ ID NO: 1; and
 - d) the complement of nucleotides 319-555 of SEQ ID NO: 1.

4. (Original) An isolated nucleic acid molecule consisting of a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of:

- a) SEQ ID NO: 1;
- b) the complement of SEQ ID NO: 1;
- c) nucleotides 319-555 of SEQ ID NO: 1; and
- d) the complement of nucleotides 319-555 of SEQ ID NO: 1.

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Original) An isolated nucleic acid molecule which encodes the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2.

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Original) A vector comprising an isolated nucleic acid molecule according to Claim 1 operatively linked to a regulatory sequence.

9. (Original) A recombinant host cell comprising the vector of Claim 8.

10. (Currently Amended) A method for preparing a polypeptide encoded by an isolated nucleic acid molecule, comprising culturing the recombinant host cell of Claim 9 under conditions suitable for expression of said nucleic acid molecule and isolating the polypeptide encoded by the expressed nucleic acid.

11. (Original) An isolated polypeptide encoded by an isolated nucleic acid molecule according to Claim 1.

12. (Currently Amended) An isolated polypeptide comprising ~~all or a portion of~~ the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2.

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13.-15. (Cancelled)

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